Claims

I CLAIM:

1. A security document comprising:

a substrate;

text printed on the substrate;

a graphic carried by the substrate, the graphic conveying a visual impression to human viewers thereof;

the graphic additionally being steganographically encoded to secretly convey plural bits of digital data recoverable by computer analysis of said graphic;

wherein the printed text and the steganographically encoded plural bits of digital data cooperate to verify authenticity of the security document.

2. The document of claim 1 in which the graphic is an image.

3. The document of claim 2 in which the image is a photographic image.

4. The document of claim 1 wherein said digital data corresponds to at least part of said printed text.

5. The document of claim 1 wherein said digital data serves as an index into a registry containing additional information.

6. The document of claim 1 wherein said steganographic encoding does not visibly interrupt said graphic.

7. The document of claim 1 wherein said steganographic encoding adds noise to the graphic, said noise not being perceptible as a representation of said plural-bit digital data except by computer analysis, wherein the encoded graphic does not appear to convey digital data to human viewers thereof.